REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated March 18, 2003. Claims 1-37 are presented for examination, of which Claims 1, 9, 10, 18, 19, 27, and 28 are in independent form. The independent claims have been amended to define Applicants' invention more clearly. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

The Office Action states that Claim 27 is objected to for certain informalities. Applicants have carefully reviewed and amended Claim 27, as deemed necessary, with special attention to the points raised in section 3 of the Office Action. Applicants submit that the objection has been obviated, and therefore respectfully request withdrawal of the objection.

The Office Action states that Claims 1-5, 7, 8, 10-14, 16, 17, 19-23, 25, 26, and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,330,068 (Matsuyama); that Claims 6, 15, and 24 are rejected under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsuyama in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,351,317 (Sasaki et al.); and that Claims 9, 18, 27, and 29-37 are rejected under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sasaki et al. Applicants submit that independent Claims 1, 9, 10, 18, 19, 27, and 28, together with the claims dependent thereon, are patentably distinct from the cited prior art for at least the following reasons.

An aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 1 is directed to an information processing apparatus for communicating with an external apparatus via the Internet. The information processing apparatus includes acquisition means, generation means, and print request means. The acquisition means acquires, via the Internet, print setting information from the external apparatus. The print setting information is necessary for generating print request

information and includes information indicating a plurality of print services provided by a print shop and respective service fees.

The generation means generates the print request information based on the acquired print setting information, without requiring connection to the external apparatus via the Internet. The print request means establishes communication, via the Internet, with the external apparatus for transmission of the print request information. The print request information is generated by the generation means before the print request means establishes communication with the external apparatus. A printing fee quotation for a desired print service is calculated based on the service fees included in the print setting information.

One of the features of Claim 1 is that the print setting information is necessary for generating print request information and includes information indicating a plurality of print services provided by a print shop and respective service fees, and that a printing fee quotation for a desired print service is calculated based on the service fees included in the print setting information.

Matsuyama teaches generating a print order via the Internet. According to Matsuyama, a client generates a printer order while communicating with a print controller, which functions as a central server. Communication with the print controller occurs because print shop information, such as a specific print service and a service fee for that print service, which is required to generate the print order, is stored in the print controller (central server).

Nothing has been found in Matsuyama that is believed to teach or suggest an information processing apparatus that includes "acquisition means for acquiring, via the Internet,

print setting information from the external apparatus, the print setting information being necessary for generating print request information and including information indicating a plurality of print services provided by a print shop and respective service fees," and "generation means for generating the print request information based on the print setting information acquired by said acquisition means, without requiring connection to the external apparatus via the Internet," wherein "the print request information is generated by said generation means before said print request means establishes communication with the external apparatus, and a printing fee quotation for a desired print service is calculated based on the service fees included in the print setting information," as recited in Claim 1.

More specifically, according to Claim 1, the information processing apparatus (or client) acquires print shop information (e.g., information indicating a plurality of print services provided by a print shop and respective service fees) in advance.[1] It is therefore unnecessary for the generation means to execute a connection with the external apparatus via the Internet upon generating the print order (i.e., print request information). This shortens the Internet connection time, reduces the cost of communication, and improves communication security.

In section 7 of the Office Action, it is alleged that this feature would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art. However, Applicants have not found any prior-art documents in which it is disclosed that a client stores information indicating a plurality of print

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1 It should be understood that the examples provided herein are intended purely for illustrative purposes. It should not be construed that the present invention is limited to the features described in the examples.

services provided by a print shop and respective service fees in advance, and utilizes that information to generate print request information, as claimed in Claim 1. Therefore, Applicants respectfully disagree with the allegations in section 7, and submit that one of ordinary skill in the relevant art would find no suggestion to modify Matsuyama's system to include this feature of Claim 1.

Applicants note that it has been held that even though a prior-art device "may be capable of being modified to run the way the apparatus is claimed, there must be a suggestion or motivation in the reference to do so." In re Mills, 916 F.2d 680 (Fed. Cir. 1990); and In re Fritch, 972 F.2d 1260 (Fed. Cir. 1992). It is respectfully submitted that a *prima facie* case of obviousness over Matsuyama has not be established for Claim 1, because there is no suggestion or motivation in Matsuyama to modify its system to include the above-discussed feature of Claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claim 1 is patentable over Matsuyama and respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Independent Claims 10, 19, and 28 include similar acquisition and generation features as those discussed above, and therefore are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as for Claim 1.

An aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 9 is directed to an information processing apparatus that includes network browsing means, acquisition means, and display data generation means. The network browsing means communicates with a server across a network and displays data received from the server. The acquisition means acquires print setting information from the server and stores the print setting information at a client computer.

The display data generation means has a CGI function for rewriting the print setting information stored at the client computer and template data acquired separately from the print setting information to generate browsing display data, in which the print setting information stored at the client computer is displayed within the template data. The browsing display data is generated by inserting the print setting information into a part of the template data and is displayed by the network browsing means.

As an illustrative example, the browsing display data shown in Fig. 17B is obtained by inserting print setting information into the template data shown in Fig. 17A, and the resulting information is displayed as shown in Fig. 9.

Sasaki et al. relates to a printing system that uses a communication network. Apparently, Sasaki et al. teaches that a host computer sends print data to a printer, receives a preview image from the printer, and then displays the preview image. In response to an area designation by a user, the host computer acquires another preview image for the designated area having a different resolution from that of the printer.

Nothing has been found in Sasaki et al. that is believed to teach or suggest an information processing apparatus that includes "acquisition means for acquiring print setting information from the server and storing the print setting information at a client computer," and "display data generation means with a CGI function for rewriting the print setting information stored at the client computer and template data acquired separately from the print setting information to generate browsing display data, in which the print setting information stored at the client computer is displayed within the template data," wherein "the browsing display data is

generated by inserting the print setting information into a part of the template data and is displayed by said network browsing means," as recited in Claim 9.

Applicants note that conventional apparatuses can display only HTML data that has been completed. In order to display information such as shown in Fig. 9, it is required for a client to store, in advance, data as shown in Fig. 17B, or to acquire such data from a server. The information processing apparatus of Claim 9 generates the browsing display data using the template data stored in the information processing apparatus and the print setting information acquired from the server. Applicants respectfully submit that this feature is not found in Sasaki et al.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claim 9 is patentable over the cited art, and respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Independent Claims 18 and 27 include similar acquisition and generation features as those discussed above, and therefore also are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as for Claim 9.

The other rejected claims in this application depend from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and, therefore, are submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual reconsideration of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

The present Amendment After Final Action is believed clearly to place this application in condition for allowance and, therefore, its entry is believed proper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment, as an earnest effort to advance prosecution and

reduce the number of issues, is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe that issues remain outstanding, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact Applicants' undersigned attorney in an effort to resolve such issues and advance the case to issue.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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